

JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

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| Bill Number: 5494 SSB | Title: Baby Court Initiative | Agency: 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) |
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Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

| | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | 2019-21 | 2021-23 | 2023-25 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total: | | | | | |

Estimated Expenditures from:

| STATE | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | 2019-21 | 2021-23 | 2023-25 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FTE – Staff Years | | 0.75 | .38 | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| Account | | | | | |
| General Fund – State (001-1) | | 379,000 | 379,000 | 708,000 | 708,000 |
| State Subtotal | | | | | |
| COUNTY | | | | | |
| County FTE Staff Years | | | | | |
| Account | | | | | |
| Local - Counties | | | | | |
| Counties Subtotal | | | | | |
| CITY | | | | | |
| City FTE Staff Years | | | | | |
| Account | | | | | |
| Local – Cities | | | | | |
| Cities Subtotal | | | | | |
| Local Subtotal | | | | | |
| Total Estimated Expenditures: | | 379,000 | 379,000 | 708,000 | 708,000 |

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form parts I-V

☐ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

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| Legislative Contact: | Phone: | Date: |
| Agency Preparation: Sam Knutson | Phone: 360-705-5318 | Date: 2/3/2020 |
| Agency Approval: Ramsey Radwan | Phone: 360-357-2406 | Date: |
| OFM Review: | Phone: | Date: |

Part II: Narrative Explanation

This bill would create an initiative to create a therapeutic court - “Baby Court” - for families with a child under the age of three who has been found dependent pursuant to RCW 13.34.

This bill differs from SB 5494 by adding language to Section 2(1)(c) specifying the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to provide access to services. The previous bill was not specific and the lack of clarification suggested the Baby Court provide access to services.

Part II.A – Brief Description of what the Measure does that has fiscal impact on the Courts

Section 2(1) – Would add a new section to RCW 2.56 that would require the family and juvenile court improvement grant program to establish a therapeutic court that provides an intensive court process for families with a child under the age of three who have been found dependent pursuant to RCW 13.34. The Baby Court would establish a process for parents to voluntarily participate in Baby Court. The court would be required to review a parent or parents’ progress towards set goals at least every three months. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families would be responsible for providing access to available and appropriate services designed to remedy identified parental deficiencies. The court would need to establish processes to reduce incidences of abuse and reduce the length of time children are separated from their parents.

Section 2(2) – Would develop a process where a Superior Court may apply for grant funds from the grant program to establish a Baby Court. The Administrative Office of the Courts would distribute grant funds to support Baby Courts in two Superior Courts that serve both rural and urban populations. The Administrative Office of the Courts would develop and define the outcome measures for Baby Courts and collect outcome measure data that would be included in an annual report that must be submitted to legislative fiscal committees beginning December 1, 2021. This annual report would summarize the results of Baby Courts during the previous year. The bill would sponsor and coordinate training for judicial officers and other professionals that participate in Baby Courts receiving grant funding. The grant funds in this section would supplement any other grant funds already in place.

II.B - Cash Receipt Impact

None.

II.C – Expenditures

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) would require .5 FTE to administer and develop standards for Baby Courts, and develop a grant application process to establish each court. This would cost \$41,600 in salaries and \$14,400 for benefits for a total \$56,000. An additional .25 FTE would be required to research, develop and define outcome measures as well as to collect data and create an annual report by December 1, 2021. This would cost \$24,100 in salaries and \$7,900 in benefits for a total \$32,000. An additional \$25,000 would be required to sponsor and coordinate training for judicial officers and other professional participants in Baby Court. The total cost for the AOC would be \$113,000 for the first year and \$88,000 per year for subsequent fiscal years.

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| Salary and Benefits for AOC Court Program Analyst .50 FTE | 56,000 |
| Salary and Benefits for AOC Court Program Analyst .25 FTE | 32,000 |
| Other program startup expenses AOC | 25,000 |
| Total first year AOC expenses: | \$113,000 |
| | |
| Salary and Benefits for AOC Court Program Analyst .50 FTE | 56,000 |
| Salary and Benefits for AOC Court Program Analyst .25 FTE | 32,000 |
| Total ensuing year's AOC expenses: | \$88,000 |

Pierce County has established a Baby Court and is currently serving twelve cases. Based on the information from Pierce County, successful implementation requires a full-time Baby Court coordinator/guardian ad litem and .25 FTE for a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) at an estimated annual cost of \$128,000 per court. It is estimated that an additional half day per month of court time would be required at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per year per court. The estimated cost per court, per year would be \$133,000. Funds to pay for the Baby Court would come from a grant through the Court Improvement Program administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

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| Salary and Benefits for 1.25 FTE's each for two Baby Courts | 256,000 |
| Estimated additional court half day per month FTE per Baby Court | 10,000 |
| Total first year's expenses for two Baby Courts. | \$266,000 |
| | |
| Salary and Benefits for 1.25 FTE's each for two Baby Courts | 256,000 |
| Estimated additional court half day per month FTE per Baby Court | 10,000 |
| Total ensuing year's expenses for two Baby Courts. | \$266,000 |

The estimated total cost, based on each court receiving twenty cases would be \$379,000 for the first year and \$354,000 per year for subsequent fiscal years.